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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/480,584	01/10/2000	Stephen Edward Hettinger	9D-HR-19167-HETTINGER	4498

7590 06/07/2005

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EXAMINER

TAMAI, KARL I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2834

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/480,584

Applicant(s)

HETTINGER, STEPHEN EDWARD

Examiner

Tamai IE Karl

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/15/03, 9/23/02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The examiner notes the IDS filed 10/15/2002 is a duplicate of the two previously filed IDS. Therefore it has been marked as a duplicate and placed in the file but not initialed as considered by the examiner since the references have already been considered.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 9 does not provide antecedent basis for "said sides". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Otto (US 4287662). Otto teaches a shield having an hub 41

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which grippingly engages the shaft 33, a tapered section 45. Otto teaches the sleeve gripping the shaft (inherently adapted to flex/stretch around the shaft).

6. Claims 1, 4, 8, 11, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Cunningham (US 3885176). Cunningham teaches a shield 61/62 having a cylindrical shroud and a hub which obstructs the opening in the shroud to prevent dirt from getting into the motor. Cunningham teaches the hub and shroud are integrally molded, and adapted to flex around the shaft.

7. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Else (US 1992818). Else teaches a shield 29 having an shroud 32 and a hub which obstructs the opening in the shroud to prevent dirt from getting into the motor. The hub being tapered the center of the opening to mate with a collar 63 on the shaft. Else teaches the hub and shroud are integrally formed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 3, 6, 7, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly Cunningham or Otto, in further view of Braun (US 6384501). Cunningham or Otto teach

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every aspect of the invention except the slots, including three slots 1d, on the hub which expand during insertion of the shaft. Braun teaches slots are included on the hub with at least three slots on the hub to provide localized force during press fitting of the shaft. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct the dust shield of Cunningham or Otto with the slots of Braun to assure proper positioning of the dust shield near the housing.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karl I.E. Tamai at (571) 272 - 2036.

The examiner can be normally contacted on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Darren Schuberg, can be reached at (571) 272 - 2044. The facsimile number for the Group is (703) 872 - 9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Karl I Tamai
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
May 26, 2005


KARL TAMAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER